

Message Text

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16/42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 /137 W

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R 131700Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 802

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING BONN AS ADDRESSEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, WB, GW

SUBJECT: WILLY BRANDT'S VISIT TO WEST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 771

1. FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT VISITED BERLIN MAY 11 AND 12
TO ADDRESS PARTY MEETINGS AND SPEAK AT RECEPTION
COMMEMORATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT.

2. AT SPD MEETING, BRANDT GAVE FIGHTING SPEECH IN WHICH HE
ADDRESSED PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN UNITY, INFLATION AND INTERNAL
PARTY DIFFICULTIES. HE ALSO DISCUSSED HIS RESIGNATION BUT STUCK
TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED GROUNDS FOR DECISION. HE ADMITTED THAT
HE HAD NEGLECTED PARTY AFFAIRS IN THE PAST AND HAD CONCENTRATED
HIS ENERGIES ON HIS DUTIES AS FEDERAL CHANCELLOR. HE PRO-
MISED TO RETURN TO BERLIN TO ADDRESS SPD IN EARLY FALL.

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3. SPEAKING TO OVER 2,000 PEOPLE IN U.S. MILITARY HANGAR AT TEMPLEHOF MAY 11, BRANDT GAVE BRIEF, EMOTIONAL SPEECH COMMEMORATING AIRLIFT ANNIVERSARY. (COMMENT: IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT BRANDT CHOSE TO RETURN TO BERLIN FOR HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE RESIGNING. LOOKING REMARKABLY FIT, FORMER CHANCELLOR ENJOYED OBVIOUS AFFECTION OF BERLINERS-- AS HE WALKED THROUGH AUDIENCE, PEOPLE CLAPPED HIM ON SHOULDER AND SAID "MACH'S GUT WILLY.") IN HIS SPEECH TO ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD, BRANDT SAID BLOCKAGE HAD TURNED VICTORS AND VANQUISHED INTO ALLIES AND HAD CREATED NEW POLITICAL AND MORAL ALLIANCE. THERE WAS, HE SAID, NO SECURITY WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES, BUT IN TURN THE BIG AND POWERFUL UNITED STATES DEPENDED ON THE PARTNERSHIP ANCHORED HERE FOR ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS CERTAIN THAT ALL OPPORTUNITIES WERE NOT TAKEN IN 1949 AND THEREFORE IT WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT IN 1974 NO OPPORTUNITY BE MISSED THAT OFFERED PROSPECT OF SUCCESS WITHOUT ILLUSIONS.

4. SOURCE CLOSE TO CHANCELLOR TOLD MISSION OFFICERS THAT IN PRIVATE BRANDT WAS MORE RELAXED AND SATISFIED THAN HE HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME AND IT WAS CLEAR, FROM BRANDT'S VIEWPOINT, THAT RESIGNATION WAS BEST COURSE. IT WAS NOW CERTAIN, SOURCE SAID, THAT BAHR WOULD LEAVE GOVERNMENT BUT HE COMMENTED BITTERLY THAT WEHNER HAD BEEN KEY ACTOR IN BRANDT'S DECISION TO RESIGN. KLEIN

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